

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5322

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH DISSATISFACTION WITH USG SUPPORT OF DENKTASH
STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY: ELEKDAG EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION AND CONCERN WITH LACK OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF DENKTASH PROPOSAL ON VAROSHA. HE THOUGHT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD NOT HANDLED QUESTIONING SKILLFULLY, AND THAT MUCH OF THE IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE HAD BEEN LOST. HE ASKED THAT WHITE HOUSE ISSUE A STATEMENT. END SUMMARY

2. MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG CALLEDME TO HIS OFFICE LATE AFTERNOON JULY 21 TO EXPRESS TURKISH DISSATISFACTION AND CONCERN WITH MANNER IN WHICH USG HAD RESPONDED TO THE DENKTASH INITIATIVE ON VAROSHA. ELEKDAG HAD COPIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE ANSWER REGARDING THE EMBARGO AND THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, AS WELL AS TRANSCRIPT OF THE NOON BRIEFING WHICH HAD BEEN RELAYED BY THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. ELEKDAG AGREED WITH OUR CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE EMBARGO AS A STRONG STATEMENT,
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BUT AFTER READING IT AROUND AGAIN HE INSISTED THAT MENTION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE OF THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL. HE REVIEWED THE ASSURANCES GIVEN TO ESENBEL BY THE ACTING SECRETARY AND RELAYED TO HIM BY THE EMBASSY THAT USG WOULD RESPOND TO THE DENKTASH INITIATIVE WITH A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL. HE REMARKED THAT TURKEY FELT "DECEIVED", AND WONDERED OUT LOUD HOW WE COULD CONTINUE A DIALOGUE IN

TRUST UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE REMARKED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAD CALLED HIM FIVE TIMES TODAY ASKING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE DENKTASH OPEN LETTER.

4. ELEKDAG SEEMED ALMOST EQUALLY DISTURBED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS DURING THE NOON BRIEFING. HE OBSERVED THAT THE NEWSMEN APPEARED TO BE EXTREMELY WELL BRIEFED AND HAD PUT QUESTIONS "WITH CERTAIN OBJECTIVES IN MIND." HE CONCLUDED THAT THE SPOKESMAN HAD NOT HANDLED THE SESSION VERY SKILLFULLY, AND THAT THE NEWSMEN HAD SUCCEEDED IN MINIMIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. SPECIFICALLY, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE SPOKESMAN HAD ADMITTED THAT WE WERE INFORMED IN ADVANCE, SINCE THIS COULD BE USED BY KYPRIANOU IN THE LATTER'S EFFORTS TO MAKE DENKTASH APPEAR TO BE A STOOGUE OF THE US. HE ALSO WAS DISTURBED THAT THE NEWSMEN HAD SUCCEEDED IN MINIMIZING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO COULD BE RESETTLED IN VAROSHA.

5. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO ARGUE WITH HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PRESS BRIEFING (I HAD NOT SEEN THE TRANSCRIPT), I SAID THAT I COULD NOT AGREE WITH ELEKDAG'S CONCERN THAT THE IMPACT OF THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL WAS BEING LOST. THE WASHINGTON POST HAD COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON IT, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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I UNDERSTOOD THAT SENATOR BYRD WAS USING IT TO GOOD EFFECT IN THE SENATE. I POINTED OUT THAT THE QUESTION PUT TO THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN PHRASED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AWKWARD TO INSERT A COMMENT ON THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT, THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE A VERY STRONG STATEMENT BEFORE A NATIONWIDE AUDIENCE IN FAVOR OF REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. I TOLD ELEKDAG THAT WHEN I HAD CALLED THE DEPARTMENT AN HOUR EARLIER, THE ACTING SECRETARY HAD BEEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER. WHILE I WAS SURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE UNDERSTOOD TURKISH CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER, I UNDEROOK TO UNDERLINE THEM TO WASHINGTON.

6. I MADE THE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL SEEMED TO BE HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT IN CYPRUS, AND THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION SEEMED TO BE COMING OUT OPENLY FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON KYPRIANOU. ELEKDAG COUNTERED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD HOPED THAT KYPRIANOU WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY AND THAT THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS. I ALLOWED THAT WE TOO WOULD

HAVE PREFERRED THIS, BUT THAT WE HOPED THAT THE IMPACT
OF THE REFUGEE'S DESIRE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES WOULD
NOT BE LOST ON KYPRIANOU.

7. ELEKDAG CONCLUDED THAT TURKEY EXPECTS A STRONG
SUPPORTING STATEMENT FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE
USG. HE FEARED THAT DAMAGE HAD ALREADY
BEEN DONE IN THE US BECAUSE OF THE MANNER WHICH
THE ADMINISTRATION HAD HANDLED ITS RESPONSE. NONETHELESS,
TURKEY THOUGHT THAT A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT COULD HAVE
AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON KYPRIANOU, AND THAT IT MIGHT
ALSO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WESTERN EUROPEANS WHO IN
TURN MIGHT PUT PRESSURE ON KYPRIANOU.

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